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Sarah Trent
University of Southern Maine

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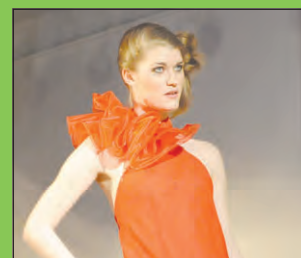
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the free press

Volume 39, Issue 20 April 14, 2008
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



WMPG
FASHION
SHOW

PAGE 17

Students STAND for action

Brandon McKenney

Staff Writer

Three USM students are concerned about genocide in Darfur.

Well, perhaps there are more than three, but in a year when involved students seem to be less involved than usual, and facing a lack of general knowledge about what's happening in Darfur, three are trying to reenergize a student group dedicated to the issue.

The USM chapter of STAND (Students Taking Action Now Darfur), whose members include Alexandra Petropoulos, Aaron White and Joe Cerny, is trying to build up some recognition on campus and in the community to get more people engaged.

They're optimistic that their group and a string of events they have scheduled over the next few weeks will get students thinking about Darfur, the western-most region of the northeast African country of Sudan.

With aid from the government of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, the Arab militia, Janjaweed, has conducted a scorched-earth campaign against non-Arabs, using rape, starvation and mass murder across the country.

See STAND page 14

"At the end of the day, when someone's ox is being gored, people fight."

-Mark Lapping, interim provost

Suspension threat lights fires, inspires plans

Sarah Trent

Executive Editor

By threatening the suspension of 26 academic programs, interim Provost Mark Lapping was trying to "light a campfire."

Fires, indeed, have been lit.

Computer science came up with an inch-high stack of documentation supporting their program. Physics and chemistry students all but rioted. Lapping received earfuls of comments from faculty and students, notes or petition-like documents written by more than one person, and, he says "the occasional diatribe."

"At the end of the day, when someone's ox is being gored, people fight," he said.

Two months after putting the programs — including women's studies, the B.S. in economics, and LAC's arts and humani-

ties — on 'probation, all but one program has submitted a plan for how they'll address the issues that put them on 'the list.'

These issues include low enrollment — only 62 students graduated last year from all of the programs, combined — and trouble "working and playing well with others," said Lapping, citing "internal troubles" in the midst of which students found themselves caught. He did not name specific programs with this problem.

The Russian program is the only one which has not yet submitted a plan, says Lapping, but he's extended their deadline because the department consists of only one faculty member.

Most of the plans, Lapping said, trying hard not to roll his eyes, were prefaced by statements saying, "if we get eliminated, life on earth would never be the same."

These programs are being evaluated under the cloud of the current budget crisis, which, combined with near-weekly news of more cuts, has a lot of university employees feeling vulnerable.

At last Friday's Student Senate meeting, Lapping emphasized something he says he's been trying to make clear since day one.

"No full-time faculty will lose their job," he said. "We need faculty."

"There's a myth that faculty will be reduced or asked to teach more — it's a scare tactic," said Lapping. "It's not happening."

While student senators asked him questions that emphasized their frustrations with some of the administration's decisions around the less-protected part-time faculty in recent "budget cuts," their real concerns focused more around the transparency of

cuts and program evaluations to students.

Students, several senators said, have been left entirely in the dark, and are being given little voice in the decisions that affect their everyday life at this university.

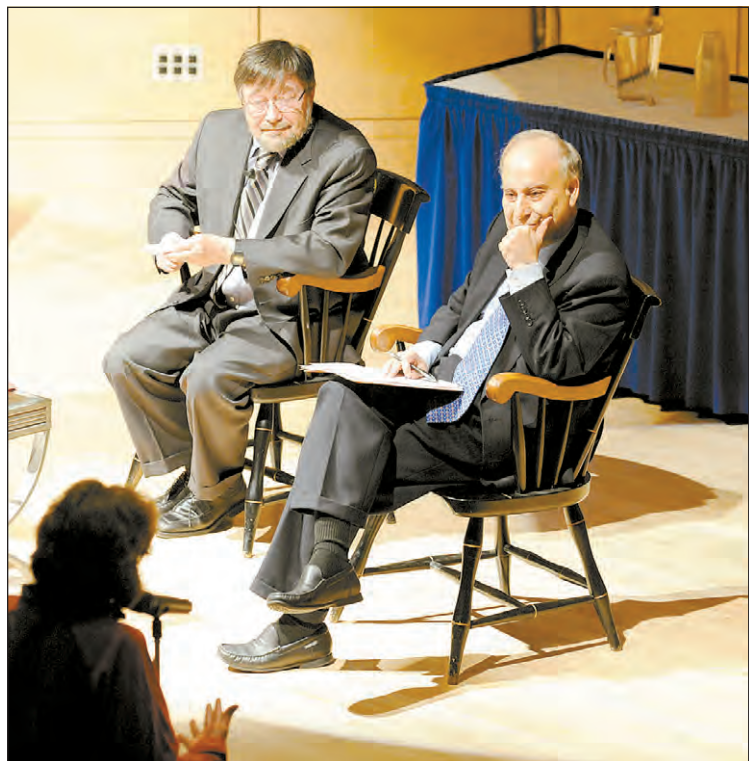
"We know the faculty better than anyone," said senator Jen Cote, yet aside from various surveys and intangible feedback, students have no influence over what happens in the hiring or cutting of faculty or programs.

In the hallway outside the meeting, senator — and physics major — Sri Dhyana spoke with Lapping about the myriad ideas she has for how to invigorate her threatened physics program, including ways to reach out to the other sciences and increase involvement in the new student-run physics club.

See PLAN page 14



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON MCKENNEY



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Judea Pearl (left) and Akbar Ahmed take a question from an audience member during a discussion in front of more than 700 in the Abromson Center. The two were part of a dialogue on the issues between Judaism and Islam.

Bridging religious divide

Brandon McKenney

Staff Writer

A Jew and a Muslim walked into an auditorium.

And they had a conversation. No joke. For an audience of more than 700, the two men spoke of building bridges between their grandchildren in a world where the fight over Israel has driven them apart.

Akbar Ahmed and Judea Pearl have been touring the world for the past five years acting as conduits for a dialogue between two religions that desperately need to talk.

Ahmed is the world's foremost scholar on contemporary Islam and the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom.

Pearl is a professor of computer science at UCLA and known in

the field of artificial intelligence, but has garnered even more attention as the father of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter murdered in Pakistan in 2002.

Following his son's death, Pearl and his family founded the Daniel Pearl Foundation, whose mission is to foster cross-cultural understanding.

Both men feel that the issues between the three Abrahamic faiths — Islam, Christianity and Judaism — have reached a crucial point at which their conflicts must be dealt with swiftly.

Their conversations are meant to act as a stepping-stone to further and encourage dialogue and action.

Last week, the men came to USM's Abromson Center for the third annual Douglas M. Schair

See PEARL page 14

Taylor-made for student body president

Matt Dodge

News Editor

Ben Taylor could just wait in the wings for his term to begin.

After the announcement of his landslide victory in last month's student government elections, Taylor could just kick up his heels on the Student Senate desk in the campus center office. He could coast until next semester, patting himself on the back for earning 44 percent of the vote and enjoy a nice, stress-free month.

He could. But that's just not Ben Taylor.

"I would just be bored if I wasn't involved" said Taylor, who has spent the last week following current the student body president, AJ

See TAYLOR page 5



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The economy Sucks

Part 1 of 3



Looking for jobs in a recession

Abigail Cuffey
Contributing Writer

A local radio station is enticing its listeners with encouragement for its latest contest: "What will it take to stimulate your economy? A new television or maybe free gas for a year?"

Everywhere you turn, the buzz of recession is eminent.

Talk of an economic slump is all over news headlines; "jobs slashed" and "pointing to a recession" have become commonplace.

They're not exactly encouraging words for college students and soon-to-be grads.

According to the Associated Press in Washington, about 80,000 jobs were cut in the month of March. The recession has caused a jump in unemployment rates, up from 4.8 to 5.1 percent over the same month.

Those with jobs heavily affected are in the construction, manufacturing, retail, financial services and other business service fields.

Housing market collapses, credit crunches and off-balance financial systems are the culprit in all of this mess, and the results – including an estimated 7.8 million unemployed, are only making the financial situation worse.

All of this might just seem like economic jargon, but it could have devastating effects for students entering the work force this year.

One USM student feeling the effects is Bethany Lynn, a 2007 graduate with a criminology degree.

She says she spends 45 minutes a day looking for jobs online, adding that the process "wasn't what I expected."

Her field has limited entry-level jobs available to graduates; most ask for a few years experience. It took Bethany two months to find a secure job in the field of social work, but she has had to find part-time jobs as a waitress and nanny just to pay the bills.

With budget cuts to the social work field in Maine, job openings are becoming even harder to come by.

"I've had to look into alternative fields, such as administrative and business positions," she says. And most frustrating is that nothing seems to fit – she's either over- or under-qualified for everything available.

With the healthcare industry booming, she's decided to switch to a more profitable career in dentistry.

"I'm currently looking for something more stable," she says. "I really wish that my professors had provided me with more career options, and were involved with my career placement. I don't think I should have to seek them out."

Bethany says she wishes her advisors had discussed long-term career planning. With Maine's high unemployment rates, she has accepted that one day she will have to be willing to relocate.

On the brighter side, local economic expert, professor Charles Colgan of USM's Muskie School of Public Service, offers some good news to the economic situation.

He believes that "the recession will end by next fall because the Fed has lowered interest rates, and Congress has passed the stimulus package."

Colgan recognizes that it is a "little harder to find a job" in Maine, but not significantly so. There's definitely a decline in employment, he says, but New England isn't feeling the effects quite as hard as California or Florida.

On the topic of summer jobs, Professor Colgan stresses that the population in Maine increases by fifty percent during this period.

"It's not difficult to find a summer job," he says. "There's a labor shortage in Maine anyways, and private sector jobs will help with this."

Colgan also doesn't think that this summer's high gas prices will hamper tourism.

"This will only discourage long distance traveling, but encourage short term traveling," he says.

This means that Maine might see more travelers from Massachusetts, as opposed to Michigan or Kansas.

However, he also recognizes that with prices forecasted for upwards of \$4 per gallon this summer, "we don't know what's going to happen."

Statistics show that most graduates end up getting a job 50-100 miles from where they graduated. With the economic slump, he says that most students will seek further education in their current field, but won't change direction entirely.

One recent graduate not worried about her financial future is Kara Lee, who left USM in 2007 with degrees in business administration and marketing.

Kara was attended the USM's annual job fair the month before graduation, and something lined up fairly quickly.

When asked about the economic slump, Kara isn't too concerned.

"I'm going to stay in Maine for a few more years, but eventually I'll move out of state, she says, "not because of the job crisis, but because of the weather."



Not all the news is bad...

Despite the recession, some jobs remain necessary -- business, professional services and healthcare are expected to add jobs as baby boomers reach the age of needing assistance.

Growth in these fields was evident at USM's annual job fair last week, where a majority of available jobs were in the nursing, accounting and management fields.

With so much talk of unemployment, the job fair was a refreshing reminder of the jobs still available in Maine.

The fair included a chance for students to participate in resume workshops and mock interviews, as well as meet with employee-seeking businesses.

It included local businesses like L.L.Bean, Mercy Hospital and Wright Express, who are looking for eager students to join their workforce.

Next week, part two will look at how USM's enrollment might be affected by the recession.

How are you feeling the economic slump?

By Abbey Cuffrey

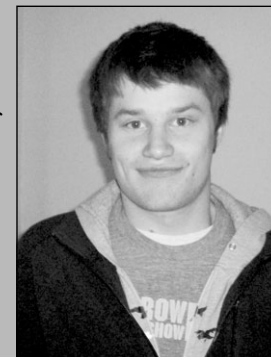


"Gas prices have affected how much I drive, but the shuttle bus is helpful. Traveling internationally is getting harder because the U.S. dollar isn't worth as much because of adjusting exchange rates in Europe."

Miranda-May Beaubien, Sophomore Environmental Science

"I don't really pay attention to that stuff. I just swipe my debit card whenever. I'm kind of living in my own little world... I feel pretty secure with the money I have saved."

Seth Doyle, Junior Media Production



"Since gas prices continue to rise, I take the shuttle-bus to class instead of driving. Necessities have begun to cost too much, so I don't buy as many video games and limit drinks when out."

Steve Spampinato, Junior Media Studies

"I'm a horse instructor in the area and there has been a huge lack of business lately. Usually participants are up three times than what it is now. People are obviously cutting back on extracurricular activities to save money."

Kim Bragdon, Junior Biology



"A co-worker told me that my summer job at USM was going to be cut because of the budget crisis. I heard they were installing wireless internet on the buses, but they can cut my job? That just doesn't make sense."

Chris Guare, Junior History

"I've limited spending and started a savings account. I'm not really worried about my job since I have work study."

Eric Beaty, Junior Electrical Engineering



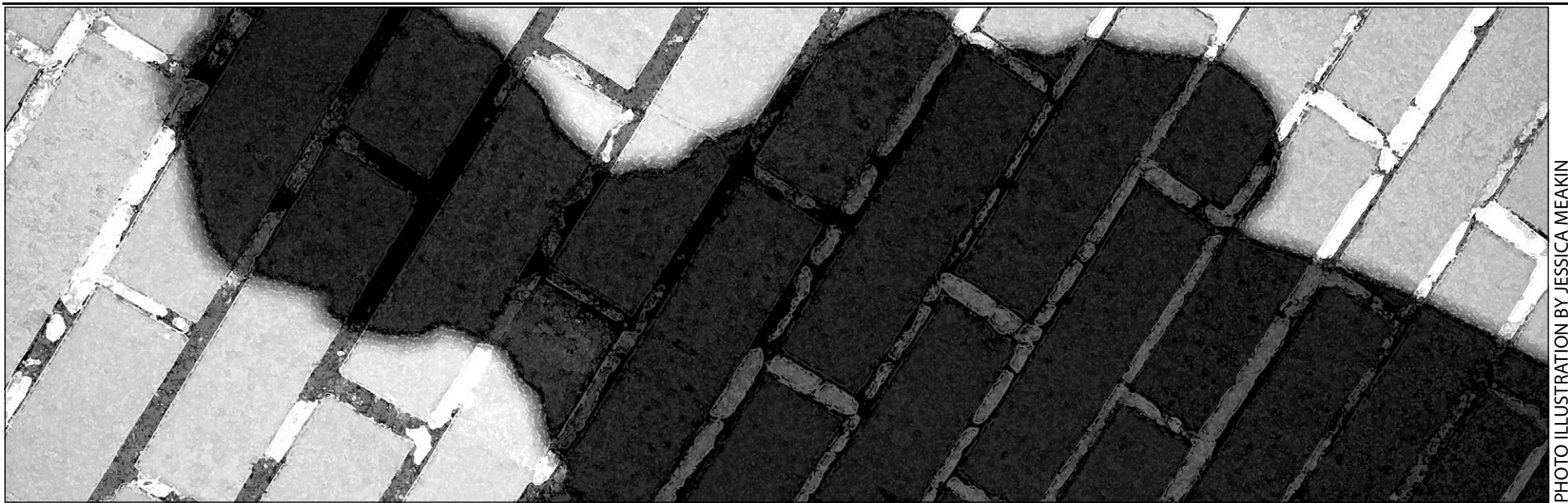


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA MEAKIN

Mental health & campus safety one year after Virginia Tech

The tragedy in Virginia has brought outrage, anxiety and a more streamlined approach to student well-being

David O'Donnell

Sports Editor

With only cloudy and conflicting information about the killer, early coverage at Virginia Tech last April focused on the victims — their varied lives and harrowing final moments.

It told of people like Liviu Librescu, the 76-year-old professor and Holocaust survivor who pushed himself against a classroom door to allow students an escape out the window.

His and other stories offered a hint of contrast to the otherwise bleak news, in which the US had just witnessed the deadliest civilian-shooting rampage in its history.

And then, two days later, the killer got a lot more vivid.

That's when a package arrived at NBC News headquarters, something that appeared to be a bizarre spin on the "press kit" — videotaped monologues, still photographs, and a 118-page written statement prepared by the shooter, 23-year-old Seung-Hui Cho.

It was unquestionably a method of reaching out, but an incomprehensible one.

The package's contents were crafted while he had the deed firmly in mind, at least in nature. It is believed that he dropped it in the mail after the first two murders; and it was clearly designed to play a part in the media circus following his death (he compares himself to Jesus Christ throughout).

NBC would eventually decide against airing the bulk of what anchor Brian Williams dubbed

this "multimedia manifesto." But it did showcase a representative portion on their Nightly News broadcast that evening.

"You had a hundred billion chances and ways to have avoided today," Cho detachedly states at one point. "But you decided to spill my blood. You forced me into a corner and gave me only one option."

The dominant angle on the Virginia Tech massacre was thus cemented: how had this mentally ill, violence-obsessed individual managed to attend the University for so long, and get to this point?

The focus shifted away from the school's shambling response to the incident itself, and onto the way it had reacted to Cho's long history of alienated — and alienating — behavior.

Dr. Robert Small, the clinical director of counseling at USM, operates on both the Portland and Gorham campuses each week from offices that break sharply in look and feel from other departments.

From the waiting area to his personal desk, there is no shortage of plant life and cushioned seating; in the waiting area, you're invited not only to sit back and watch some television, but to do so in a reclining easy chair.

April is the one-year anniversary of Virginia Tech, and it has always been the busy season for anyone in this line of work. It's when hundreds of seniors look toward life after college, and hundreds more struggle to catch up with end-of-the-year work.

It is no wonder that college is one of the most common places for a mental illness to make itself known.

Following the mental-health related Virginia Tech tragedy and the more recent shooting at Northern Illinois in February, his work is that much more important.

"We probably see in the range of 800 students over the academic year," says Small. While some come in with smaller-scale personal growth issues, "on the other end of the continuum, we have students that get depressed and for various reasons want to die."

He stresses that the number of people that come to him in extreme distress is small, relative to the number that simply need to talk out isolated problems.

He also points out that the majority of major cases that come his way are from students at the tail end of an academic career.

After last year's tragedy at Virginia Tech, Small's first order of business was to send a mass e-mail to students and faculty aimed at reminding them how open his door is.

He was on hand to help sort through the shock of the then-unfolding event, but also anything else that could affect the school's nearly 11,000 students: the end of a romance, the persistence of disastrous study habits.

Following the events last April, there is now an "involuntary withdrawal" option available to USM administrators which goes beyond the reach of conduct-based expulsion.

It would be considered if a person were to cross the line from being a mental-health case to a potential safety threat.

But Small is weary of the tendency for media memes to lead people into expecting the impossible.

"Whenever you put [this many] people in one place, there is going to be risk. The hardest part of this discussion is that bad things do happen sometimes," he says. "However, the well of communication and collaboration across the different departments, focusing on the students' best interests, has never been greater."

If you talk to any administrator whose department was put under scrutiny in the last year — and few were not — "increased collaboration" is the single most-cited development.

Employees of the counseling department meet weekly with those in the offices of Student Life, Community Standards, and Campus Safety.

Occasionally, says community standards director Joseph Nelson, that can involve weighing a matter where an issue of conduct becomes one of mental health, and vice versa.

By all accounts, these meetings were already taking place before April 2007. But since then, they have been woven into the fabric of the school, and even extended outside it.

For instance, a USM student who is admitted to a nearby hospital for psychiatric reasons is given the opportunity to sign a disclosure form.

Doing so extends patient-doctor confidentiality to the school's counseling center, allowing them to become involved with the student during and after their hospital stay.

It's by no means mandatory, but it is a way of directly reaching out to the student at the height of a personal crisis, and letting them reach out to counselors.

The idea behind it, and other efforts, being that it beats passing a few pamphlets in the hallway when, after-the-fact, troubled students return to campus.

In Portland, University Counseling Services is located in 105 Payson. In Gorham, find them in 110 Upton. They are open 8-4:30 Monday through Friday. Any student paying the health fee (those enrolled in six or more credits) has already paid for his or her first 12 counseling sessions.



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Campus Events

Tuesday April 15

Club Volleyball Team, Guys and Girls- Weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Sundays/ Hill gym-Costello Sports Complex, Gorham Campus/ 7-9 p.m./ For more information Please email Dani Netland at dtnetland@maine.rr.com.

Women and Spirituality- Women in leadership in their diverse religious communities discuss their paths to religious life, the mentors who encouraged them, how they have persevered/ Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater, Portland/ 12:30-2 p.m./ For more information please call 780-4996 or 228-8093.

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meeting- If you're interested in global affairs and conference planning, please join us/ 217 Abromson Community Education Center, Portland campus/ 5-5:30 p.m./ For more information please email jelena.sarenac@maine.edu.

Wednesday April 16

Student Parent Brown Bag Lunch- Brown Bag lunch for Student Parents. Children invited. Featuring cookies, punch and tea/ Women's Resource Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland/ 12-1 p.m.

College Democrats Meeting- Regular meeting of the USM College Democrats/ Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information contact Elizabeth Trask at elizabeth.trask@maine.edu.

Thursday April 17

Meditation Club Meeting- Please come to our weekly open meetings to learn and practice methods for fostering peace in yourself/ 208 Luther Bonney, Portland Campus/ 2:30-3:30 p.m./ For more information contact yoirilawson@hotmail.com.

Thinking Matters- Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium, including "Civic Matters," featuring civically engaged student work/ Portland Campus (various locations)/ 2:30-8:30 p.m./ For more information visit <http://research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters>.

Maine Pirg Meeting- Weekly meeting/ 7-8 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

Gorham Events Board Meeting- Weekly meeting to plan events for the Gorham campus/ SIAC(Husky Hut)-Gorham/ 7-9 p.m./ For more information please contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

Friday April 18

Thinking Matters- Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium, including "Civic Matters," featuring civically engaged student work/ Portland Campus (various locations)/ 8am-5pm/ For more information check out <http://research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters/>.

Student Senate Meeting- Weekly meeting/ Formal Lounge, Upton Hastings Hall, Gorham campus/ 2:30-4:30 p.m./ Call 228-8501 for more information.

Saturday April 19

STAND Student Group- Torch Welcoming and Public Support Walk/ Congress Square (595 Congress St.)/ 12-1 p.m.



At USM's Opera Workshop on Friday, April 11, Mary Clark performs as the doll invented by Spalanzi (Brian Tingdahl) as Hoffman (George Eisenhauer) looks on. Hoffman has magic glasses that bring the doll to life and has fallen in love with her. The scene is from Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

SGA President-elect Ben Taylor sits in front of a banner in the SGA offices in Woodbury Campus Center. The sophomore became involved at USM before he even enrolled, and is looking forward to making change on campus.

Ben Taylor looks toward his presidency

From TAYLOR page 1

AJ Chalifour, getting to know more about his new role.

In the conference room of the student government office, Taylor seems comfortable. Dressed in a sweater, with the collared shirt you'd expect in an elected official, his garb reflects his casual, personable approach to politics — all the required formality without any of the intimidation.

Instilled with the "values of democracy" at an early age by his mother, a civics teacher, Taylor has long been involved in student government.

In his tenure at Windham High School, Taylor served as a class officer, and was eager to continue his record of involvement after he shed the cap and gown.

Like many USM students, Taylor's path to Husky-hood was not a traditional one.

After graduating high school, Taylor went into the workforce for two years, holding down a full time job at Radio Shack to earn money for college.

Living on Brighton Avenue at the time, Taylor always kept one eye down the road towards the Portland campus, and one foot in the world of academia, getting involved with students creating the Opportunity Maine program even before he was enrolled at the university.

By the time he did enroll, he was already involved with the students who helped bring PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) back to Maine, and noticed that PIRG and student government seemed to attract many of the same people.

Though there is a lot of cross-over between the groups, Taylor was at first unsure of how to get involved, but seems to have figured things out quickly — the sophomore is serving this year as vice chair of the student senate.

As senior student body president AJ Chalifour approached the end of his time at USM, Taylor saw his chance to affect change at USM, and head up the organization with which he had become so familiar.

Now that he's won, Taylor has to decide what tone his impending presidency will take. Last year's president, Andrew Bossie, focused his term on working with administration and staff to reach his goals and was a key force in creating Opportunity Maine, which finally came to fruition in January.

Chalifour has defined his time in office this year through working more closely with students and student groups.

Given these precedents, Taylor says that a good balance is important.

"I think it's important to be accessible to students, and work with them to find creative solutions to USM's problems," he says.

These problems, in Taylor's opinions, are not as strongly tied to the budget as some people think.

The often-cited "community" that USM lacks is not a problem that can only be solved with cash, he says. "There are lots of things we can do that the budget has little implication on."

Getting people to sporting events, Taylor suggests, is a cost-free way to build community and pride in USM.

"We are an under-funded public university," Taylor says, "but the distinction between public and private universities is all about the support that private universities get."

This support, Taylor suggests, is intrinsically tied into alumni pride for their alma mater, a trait that can be a little harder to find at USM.

Increasing community and pride, while in itself an appealing

trait of a school, can also have positive long-term financial effects.

Reluctant to base his term on unrealistic aspirations, Taylor recognizes the limits of his office.

"There are not a lot of tangible, measurable goals that can be set for a position like this," he admits.

Still, Taylor doesn't let himself get bogged down in the harsh reality of being the next student body president at a currently-resource-starved school.

Setting some "stretch goals," Taylor aspires to generate involvement by getting students to lend their unique talents to the SGA, helping both the organization and school grow as a result.

"There are lots of students with skills in specific things," he says. Giving one example, Taylor suggests that "a marketing student could be a valuable resource if they get involved."

Taylor hardly comes across as the fiercely political type.

His seems more like a panda bear with a propensity toward chuckling.

The mustachioed president-elect is quickly learning that the presidential job requires a chameleonic ability to adapt to a crowd.

"You need to be able to switch roles," he says. "You can be casual with students, but you need to put on the formal face sometimes to deal with official matters."

Hoping one day to pursue a career in international diplomacy, Taylor is currently studying Russian and hopes to go abroad his senior year.

Such a choice would mean a more limited role for Taylor in student government, but he isn't preoccupied with titles and recognition.

"That's not what's most important to me," he says, "I just want to help address all these things that could be better at USM."

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



This week’s paper and a handful of events in the past week have reminded me how difficult it is to be a student and a journalist at the same time.

I’m not talking about the scheduling conflicts between a 60-hour workweek at the Free Press and a full course load – I’m talking about the various potential conflicts of interest with which student journalists grapple when they write about the university with which their lives are entwined.

As editor if this newspaper, it has been very much to the benefit of both myself and my staff that I have spent the last five years making connections across campus. I played

lacrosse, ran the outing club, was a student senator and have been involved with the board of student organizations, the honors program and first and foremost, the English department.

I know people. I know how systems work. I’ve been around – which, I think, allows the Free Press to cover things it might not otherwise have had access to or knowledge of.

And yet, as the one making the ultimate decisions on what does and doesn’t go into this newspaper – as well as being a writer of some of that content – I am constantly faced with decisions that at any professional newspaper would probably be considered conflicts of interest.

Ben Taylor, our next student body president, is a close friend. How, therefore, can I make honest decisions about our coverage of him as he enters his term?

And this week’s coverage of the outing club (which I am proud to announce has been named student organization of the year under the recent leadership of Eric Favreau) – am I justified in running the article? Is it wrong of me for choosing them over another club? Would it be fair if I chose another instead, simply because of my involvement?

And covering women’s lacrosse (and sports in general) – as a former USM athlete, I feel a special pressure to be careful with coverage of the athletics department.

While they understand that I cannot ethically protect them from the media, I also feel dedicated to the student athletes with whom I share a sort of understanding.

I feel like I have been able to bring better coverage to the athletic department because, as an athlete, I understand its inner workings; I know the games and rivalries that warrant coverage because I used to play in them.

This is an ongoing struggle – and not one a student editor can ever escape. I guess I say these things in the interest of transparency. As our newspaper continues to become more and more professional, the pressure on us becomes that much stronger – and yet we cannot avoid potential conflicts.

I will be writing stories on the women’s lacrosse team – because

with a shortage of sports writers (and the advantage of my knowledge of the game), I will not always have a choice.

I will be assigning (and possibly writing, for the same reason) stories on the English department – because the drama that goes on between its more than 50 faculty (of whom 21 are full-time) has been likened by university staff to a “pit of vipers,” and is reaching the point at which students find themselves caught in the midst of things (one of the major reasons some programs were put on Mark Lapping’s evaluation list, if you will recall).

My only hope – and a large part of the conflict – is that they let me graduate in peace, whatever happens.

But, whatever happens, bear with us. We cannot cover everything. And we cannot cover everything perfectly or without conflicts of interest, no matter how hard we try.

We avoid them where we can. And we hope you trust our judgment when we can’t.


Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

CORRECTIONS

In our story on student performing in the USM Honor’s Recital last weekend, “Honor’s Recitalists,” we profiled “Alexis Hardy,” who does musical theater. Her name is actually Alexis Handy. This was a writer’s error.

Our story “Ben Taylor takes SGA election by a land slide” (April 7) said that this was the second year of online elections. This was actually the fourth year. This was an editor’s error.

In the photo caption on “Fans save Anime Boston 2008” (April 7), we said that the person shown was dressed as “Ryck.” It is actually “Ryuk.” This was a copy editor’s error.

The Featured Faculty on April 7 on Bill Gavin was not by Liz Lugosi. It was by Laura Fellows. This was a production error.

the free press

www.usmfreepress.org

92 BEDFORD STREET - PORTLAND, MAINE 04101
(207) 780-4084 freepress@maine.edu

EXECUTIVE EDITOR	SARAH TRENT
ARTS EDITOR	JENNA HOWARD
NEWS EDITOR	MATT DODGE
SPORTS EDITOR	DAVID O'DONNELL
PRODUCTION EDITOR	JESSICA MEAKIN
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- Guest commentaries are sometimes solicited or accepted from members of the USM community; they may not exceed 750 words.
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- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu.

COMMENTARY

It’s Strimling. Not Stremling.

Jeff Doucette

I appreciate Dustin Gilbert’s portrait of Dean Scontras’ candidacy for US Congress.

I am unaware of an effort made by Mr. Scontras to come to USM, as many other candidates have done, but I feel his presence would facilitate an exchange of ideas beneficial to the entire USM community.

That being said, there is some false information and unsubstantiated arguments put forth in the column that are worthy of more earnest scrutiny.

First, one of Mr. Scontras’ opponents in the race was misidentified as Ethan Stremling.

His name is Ethan Strimling. This spelling error, repeated throughout the column, is negligible, except that it appears indicative of a superficial grasp of Mr. Strimling’s career and candidacy.

Mr. Gilbert’s remarks confirm this: “Democrats like Stremling [sic], who also owns low-income housing, keep pushing programs that allow low-income Mainers to live off the state, while at the same time keeping those people in poverty -- and keeping their vote.” These claims are profoundly misinformed and risible.

In reality, Mr. Strimling owns no low-income housing. What Mr. Gilbert seems to be referring to -- either dishonestly, or with a disregard for the facts -- is that Mr. Strimling has served as executive director of the nonprofit Portland West for more than a decade.

Portland West assists at-risk and poor children and families, and owns some low-income housing to aid its mission.

It is via the industriousness of Mr. Strimling and others that Portland West has been able to overcome limited funds to provide disempowered members of the community with a stepping stone out of what is too often generations of poverty compounded by a pervasive sense of hopelessness.

Further, Mr. Strimling has been a senator in the Maine legislature for six years. There, he has worked to implement fairer taxes for the middle class and the elderly. He has worked with Senator Richard Nass, a Republican, to reduce property taxes. Very clearly, the policies and programs Mr. Gilbert laments do not exist.

Throughout his career, Mr. Strimling has demonstrated a keen foresight and commitment to finding solutions to pressing issues. Consistent with this theme, he has highlighted the hardships caused by misguided government policies that favor the very wealthiest citizens.

Polarization of wealth in the US, after all, is currently at a level not experienced since just prior to the Great Depression. Moreover, college tuition has skyrocketed (at double the rate of inflation) in the last several years, putting a college degree -- and upward social mobility -- out of reach for much of the public.

One of Mr. Strimling’s recent responses is a proposal to increase the

minimum wage, which is, above all, a practical means of reinvigorating the slowing economy.

As Mr. Strimling notes, “Americans who make less spend a higher proportion of their income at the market, re-injecting that income back into the economy and promoting economic stimulation.”

A policy of “trickle down” economics, on the other hand, as President Bush’s tax cuts represent, gives extra money overwhelmingly to people who need it the least and have the least incentive to spend it quickly.

Mr. Scontras’ business acumen could prove an important asset in the effort to strengthen Maine’s economy, but it is essential that the capabilities of the market not be exaggerated.

Private firms are concerned almost myopically with maximizing profits; more ethical considerations seldom register. Adequate safeguards must be routinely put in place lest the economy -- and society -- become too tightly controlled by a narrow group of economic elites, well isolated from the plight their decisions cause others.

Perhaps Mr. Scontras should leave the boardroom more often, follow Mr. Strimling’s lead, and start connecting more conscientiously with the issues most important to Mainers from all varieties of backgrounds.

Jeff Doucette is a senior political science major and a member of the College Democrats.

Letter to the Editor

Don’t generalize about the poor

Dear Free Press,

This letter is in response to “Don’t believe the hype around Democrats” published on April 7. First and foremost I would like to thank you for allowing Mr. Gilbert to contribute to our school newspaper. It is very important for a publication such as The Free Press to contain varying view points, different ideas, and suggestions which allow its readers to obtain different perspectives on a myriad of issues.

However, his most recent contribution is a flawless example of the ignorance that is widespread throughout our country.

All politics aside, what he has stated in his article is offensive, oppressive, and rapaciously prejudice. He stated, “[Democrats]...keep pushing programs that allow low-income Mainers to live off the state...It’s a tactic that breeds laziness and dependency on government programs.”

What is it that he is trying to say here? Is he saying that all low-income Mainers are lazy and enjoy their financial situation so much that they sit around all day doing nothing but freeload off the State?

His article projects this, and furthermore he is offending all students who attend the University of Maine System including himself.

He and ten thousand other students attend this publicly subsidized university. Does this mean that he is lazy and that the Democrats are trying to keep him in poverty because he attends USM?

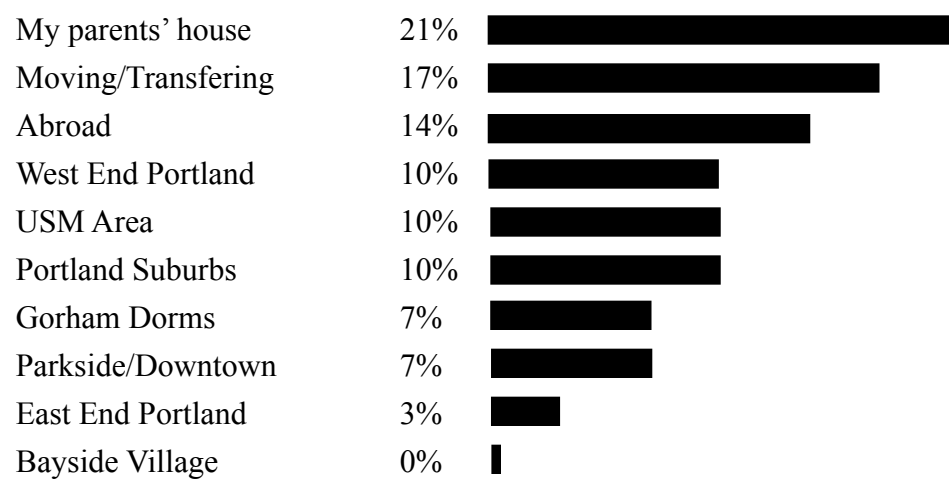
If it were not for USM, I would not be able to further the education that will allow me to contribute more to the economy. I am very thankful for this.

I would like to suggest to him that in future articles he should not generalize about the poor. He should educate himself about what it means to be poor in this country.

And I would also like to suggest that he obtain some real-life, real-world experience before he settles on becoming an advocate for this corporate libertarian populace he seems to be representing.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Hayden
Senior
History Major

ONLINE POLL:
Where do you plan to live next year?



This Free Press poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

FROM THE RIGHT

Where’s my “academic freedom?”

Dustin Gilbert
Columnist

I am a minority. When I go into a class where I know politics will be discussed, I usually come braced for debate.

In an American government class last semester, however, I wanted to see what would be discussed if I didn’t make my conservative presence known.

In the first couple of weeks, students brought up universal health-care, Democratic nominees and the common Bush bashes.

I sat next to an old buddy from high school and just listened. I bit my tongue on a number of occasions to keep the pact I had made to simply observe — though I did speak up once to point out that this country is actually a Republic.

The occasion that struck my deepest nerve was when the professor brought in his left-of-the-center New York Times, which he swore by.

He pulled this edition out and showed the class the huge ad that took up the whole center page. The spot was purchased by moveon.org and the title was “General Be-Tray-Us.”

The professor had a smirk on his face as he simply showed the advertisement and read it aloud. There was no real point to showing it. It was something that just happened to catch his eye.

It took all my strength not to walk out of class.

Later on, Rudy Giuliani put his own advertisement in the same spot in rebuttal of moveon.org’s smearing of the honorable General.

I got to class that day and waited for this professor to pull out his sacred newspaper to show the class the Republican candidate’s full-page ad. It never happened. The Times never made another appearance in class.

I was disgusted at how this professor didn’t mind throwing this piece of liberal propaganda out in front of his class.

The worst part is that it’s not uncommon. Especially when there are conservatives in the room

whose views need to be “rem-edied.”

When I was a junior in high school, a young English teacher, a graduate of Bates, was asked to supervise my history of film class when my own teacher had to leave early one day.

My reputation as a Republican was known among my teachers and peers, but I had never talked with this guy. I’d never even had him for a class – but he knew of me.

No more than a minute in the room, and he had started in with his political opinions – aimed at me.

I told him I didn’t want to discuss politics, it was the end of the day and I was just thinking about going to practice.

But it didn’t stop. He began blaming America for just about every bad thing that was going on in the world. The world, as this man saw it, was a result of America’s wrong doings.

I couldn’t get a word in before the guy was yelling – and in front of the whole class.

He was angry with me for what he thought was wrong with this country!

It was not only distasteful but completely out of line and out of sync with what the guy was getting paid for – being an English teacher.

All professors and teachers have opinions. But they’re getting paid to fairly inform and educate, not to indoctrinate. Stating their opinions is one thing, but throwing out propaganda and hatred of conservatives, America and its military is a whole separate entity.

The next time you hear something like this going on in your classroom, remember that you didn’t pay for an opinion. You don’t pay tuition dollars to hear why he or she dislikes our President. You’re paying for an honest education.

Dustin Gilbert is a compassionate conservative hoping to help his fellow students better understand right-wingers.

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FEATURED FACULTY

Photo and interview by Laura Fellows

JAN PIRIBECK

ART DEPARTMENT

CHAIR

How long have you been in Maine?

Since the early 1970's. I moved here immediately after graduating (undergrad) and was part of the back-to-the-land movement, and built a little place out in the woods.

A place in the woods?

That was a time when people were disillusioned with the Vietnam War, and there were a lot of young people

throughout the country moving to rural areas. What I did was not exactly off the grid, but it was an alternative kind of lifestyle. I was living within a system that I didn't agree with and I was trying to do something positive within that.

How long did you live there?

About seven years. It was an owner-built home that was designed based on the size of lumber that I could scavenge.

Wow, what did you do there?

I had electricity but not running water, and did gardening, baking and all of those kinds of things, which started to eclipse my studio time, and I realized that the studio time was important. There are lots of different outlets for creative and even intellectual activity, but I do have a commitment to making visual art, so I went back to graduate school. But I learned something really important during that time that's really still a part of who I am.

What kinds of art do you do now?

I've been working on setting up an interplay between visual art and geographic information systems, and so in some ways what I do is a form of digital mapping -- a broader way of defining that would be cultural cartography. It could be mapping some very personal feelings or perceptions about a place, and sometimes I map opinions.

Have you mapped any opinions lately?

Lately I have not. But I did a project with students where we went out and looked at the neighborhood where I live, and used principles of design and rated different locations in the neighborhood according to those design principles -- so that's where I took the point data and made these very colorful contour maps that you can read and see how they reflect those

opinions.

The end result just stands for the multiplicity of view-points, how people can think about things differently - so that we can't really nail everything down.

Does anyone in particular stand out as being an inspiration to you for pursuing art?

Buckminster Fuller. He was an honorary professor at Southern Illinois University when I was an undergrad -- at that point in time he was talking a lot about building geodesic domes. He gave a talk in a class that I was in, and he was brilliant. He talked for hours without notes, just off the top of his head. His ability to think as a designer but also as a humanist -- that was very inspiring.

So you see art as more than just self-expression?

I do, I see creativity and innovation as being basic impulses that are at the essence of any discipline, and somebody like Fuller is drawing off a lot of different disciplines, and contributing in a way that brings these different sets of knowledge together.

Do you feel it's important to have a balance between the rural and the technological sides of things?

Absolutely, I like those extremes. I don't have a bias towards high-tech or low-tech, and I believe that you have to find a balance. Let's face it, if there's an ice storm like we had, and the lights go out, you're not going to be using your computer but you can still pick up a stick and dip it in mud and draw.

Which of the two campuses (Portland and Gorham) do you like better in terms of the general atmosphere?

I can't choose. That sounds like a cop-out and maybe it is. They're different in the way each functions and in the feel, so I'm back and forth, and can appreciate what each has to offer.

Black & White

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Comedian Bob Marley performs for a packed audience in Gorham. He loves performing at colleges, and has been to USM almost every year for a long time, depending on where he’s been living.

The Bob Marley Show

David O’Donnell
Sports Editor

Last Thursday, comedian Bob Marley performed a free stand-up set at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham. I caught up with him afterwards to talk a little about leaving Los Angeles, remembering Maine college life, and not being able to get into his own shows.

How often do you try to make it to USM?
I come, gosh, it seems like once a year now. It depends on where I live, like when I lived in LA I didn’t come much. But I always try to do it, cause you know, it’s USM, it’s Portland, I’m from here.

Do you perform at many colleges?
Colleges, I like to do ‘em, when I first started -- oh gosh, I would do like 40 or 50 a year. And then when I moved to LA I stopped doing ‘em all together.
It’s weird because I’m 41. I don’t feel like I disconnect with them, because I never made my set about being, you know, an older person. I just make it about whatever’s funny.
I still feel like I connect with them. Some guys get to a point where they’re doing a lot of political stuff, and they can’t connect with the audience as much.

Have you ever done political material?
Some. The only political joke I’m doing right now is, I say people can’t decide if they want to elect a woman or a black guy. I think we can solve the

whole problem, we just have to get Rupaul to run. I just do goofy stuff. I try not to get preachy or anything. There’s nothing wrong with that, but the biggest mistake you can make with an audience is if they don’t believe you, you’re screwed.
Fortunately for me, they believe me as a goofy, dumb white guy.

One who’s back living in Maine.
Yeah. I lived here when I started, then I was in Boston for two years, then LA for 11. I moved back almost three years ago. I’m still working a lot out there, I go out next month for a show on E! and one on CBS.
And I’m doing a sequel to *Boondock Saints* this summer.
So I go back and forth. I don’t do as much road work because I’ve got three kids, but I’ve been pretty lucky. It’s a wicked crapshoot.

Does your act change a lot when you go out of state?
Oh yeah, some things, but not everything. Anything that’s super-specific about Maine you can’t do.
That’s a big question, people are like “how do you work anywhere else?” And I’m like, well, I’ve got 13 CDs, there’s probably 11 and a half hours of stuff. Every album has 15- 20 minutes about Maine, and the rest is stuff I can do anywhere.
It’s just that when I’m in Maine, I really try to put my finger on the pulse of all the folks here. It’s fun. It’s like joking around with your family.

See MARLEY page 13

DON’T STAY HOME

“LAST EASTER”
GET JAZZED

APRIL 14

If you’ve got kids, siblings, or friends who never quite grew up, you might just enjoy a family concert by Matt Loosigian, which is part of the Week of the Young Child. This event is sponsored by the USM Child and Family Centers. 4:30 to 5:15 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater, Portland campus/ 780-4125

APRIL 15

The North Star Cafe presents a poetry reading in the Port Veritas Spoken Word Series, entitled “Women in poetry.” This night will feature USM poetry teachers Annie Finch and Betsy Sholl, as well as Barbara Kelly & Roller Girl. Free/ 7 p.m./ 225 Congress St., Portland/ 699-2994

APRIL 16

The Old Port Acting Studio will be holding an acting workshop to celebrate their grand opening. Spring acting classes begin on April 21. The workshop is free/ 7 to 9 p.m./ 386 Fore Street #501, Portland/ 408-5061

APRIL 17

Bowdoin college presents the Maine Jazz Showcase featuring The Frank Mauceri Quintet, and Steve Grover’s Garden Above Trio. Not only does the show feature some well-respected Maine jazz artists, but it is also a benefit for Andrew D’Angelo, a Brooklyn-based saxophonist who has been diagnosed with cancer. Admission is free, but there will be a table for donations/ 7:30 p.m./ Studzinski Recital Hall, Kanbar Auditorium, Bowdoin College/ 798-4141

APRIL 18

USM theater’s final major production of the year begins tonight. “Last Easter,” directed by Tom Power, is a play by Bryony Lavery which touches on issues of death and God as it follows a terminally ill woman and her friends in a dark but humorous search for healing. Cost is \$12 for the general public, \$8 for seniors and USM faculty and staff, and \$5 for students/ 7:30 p.m./ Russell Hall, Gorham campus/ 780-5151

APRIL 19

The Sixth Annual Maine Deaf Film Festival will be held at USM, and can be an informative and entertaining way to spend your afternoon and evening. Films vary in length and cover different topics such as deaf history, deaf filmmakers, stereotypes, humor, and more. This event is free for USM students with student ID’s/ 1 to 11 p.m./ Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland campus, with a reception in between sessions at the Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater/ 780-4582

APRIL 20

Come out and support the USM Chorale as they sing at Immanuel Baptist Church. This performance will be conducted by Robert Russell, and selections will include parts of Mendelssohn’s “Elijah.” \$10/\$5/ 2 p.m./ 156 High St., Portland/ 780-5555



Student Designer Elissa Levin's apartment floor is shown covered with fabric remnants as she scrambles to get her pieces ready for the WMPG Annual Fashion show.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Showing off

By Jenna Howard

The ups and
downs of
WMPG's
fourth annual
fashion show



Dreaming and designing

"This is going to look just right," says Elissa Levin as she wraps a navy blue sash around her body and skips a couple steps across her hardwood living room floor, which is covered in pieces of fabric.

It's just after midnight, three days before the WMPG fashion show benefit, and the 22-year-old political science major is busy putting the finishing touches on a piece that she's designed for the event, held last Friday at the SPACE gallery.

The young designer is passionate about sewing. She's dressed in a frilly black knitted top with a large black and white skirt that grazes her knees. The skirt is belted and her hair is pinned.

It's late, but she looks like she could be ready for an appearance at a chic cocktail bar. Her personal style, she says, is something that influences her work.

Levin's goal is to create beautiful pieces without wasting anything.

The entire bottom-half of a black party-dress is bulging with what looks to be hundreds of pieces of colorful scraps.

"They're all old tee shirts," she says with a smile. "I really believe in using what's lying around, instead of consuming more and more. Art should not be wasteful."

Levin returned to USM last semester after she spent two years in Cape Town, South Africa, where she got much of her inspiration.

She has given names in African dialects to each of the three pieces she is putting in the fashion show. The piece made up of so many scraps she calls Emasithandane, which means, 'we must all love each other' in Gauteng.

It also happens to be the name of a children's home in South Africa, to which Levin plans to donate the proceeds of her dresses if she sells them.



Direction from downstairs

In the basement of SPACE on Friday night, Elissa Levin and twenty other designers are finalizing their finishing touches for presentation in the fashion show. They're all visibly sweating.

Backstage, Levin is pinning and spraying the brown locks of USM photography student Sarah Reece, attaching tulle here and there.

While most of the models got their hair and makeup done by professionals from Akari, who were on-hand to doll up models a few hours before the start of the show, Reese arrived after they'd packed up.

"This dress is so full of color and excitement," Levin instructs as she wraps and teases pieces of the model's hair, "but you've really got to work it with your walk, come out with so much energy, because without it, the dress won't scream like it should!"

Sarah agrees with a squeal of excitement. Clearly, she's thrilled to be 'working it,' and it's almost time to take to the catwalk for a quick-run through before the doors were opened to the public.

The 8 p.m. dress rehearsal is the first time the models are taking to the runway and learning their place in the run-list for the 9 p.m. show.



Lights, camera...

The runway, raised about five feet off the floor, follows halfway down the right-hand wall of SPACE Gallery before turning and jutting into the crowd, who is standing around the catwalk on both sides for the fourth annual WMPG fashion show.

The event, as planned, is packed to capacity, something that organizer Paul Drinan has come to expect.

He's been helping with the show since it's beginning in 2005, and has taken on more and more with each show, this year directing and producing the event.

His background in event management, he says, has included working at the Oscars in L.A. and Civic Center-sized functions with thousands of people involved.

The former professional model has been trained for the runway, and has walked catwalks in nearly every major city in the country, so he took it upon himself to train the models who wanted pointers during the week before the show.

Downstairs, designers comb their models for any flaws in their garments or pace for the catwalk; champagne comes out and toasts are made between designers and models; groups of women are lacing corsets and talking about quick clothing changes or feverishly debating between shoes.

Photographers sparkle the gallery with flashes. Run-lists are corrected, and the lights go down over the crowd.



Ready to call it a night

"This was the best show yet, by far," says Drinan, the event producer at the end of the night. He credits new theatrical lighting for making the show really punch. "In terms of attendance and the production itself, best show yet."

WMPG's own Goober (Michael Manning) and Caitlin Corbin stepped up on the day of the event to DJ the evening's show, something Drinan commends.

Confusion during planning had left a hole in the program, leaving music in the air until the last minute.

The audacious, self proclaimed "promoters of awareness and discussion under-represented in mainstream media," WMPG has done it again, holding a bustling gala that represents local designers and the art they produce, from their hearts and hardwood floors.

Summer in the city?

Job search, apartment search,
my digital hitchhike
toward New York City

Tyler Jackson

Columnist

As I write this column, which was due about two hours ago, I am a stressed out student. I know I am not alone.

The semester is coming to an end, the rest fiercely uphill.

On top of my classes and an independent study, the \$250 speeding ticket I got a few days ago isn't sitting well with my empty pocket book, and I'm attempting to figure out my summer.

I have faith that it will work out if I persist, but damn, things are not moving forward.

I am trying to work and live with my girlfriend in New York City.

That is what I want; I'm willing to do anything to make it happen.

I've applied to at least fifteen jobs and internships, put my current room up on Craigslist for sublet and asked at least ten people about a room in New York for the summer.

So far, I got nothin'.

And having to do everything online, I feel like it's that much harder to literally put my foot in the door.

At first, I figured it would be ideal to pursue an internship rel-

evant to my studies, but at this point, I'll wash dishes.

I'll hand out flyers. I'll be a telemarketer. I'll work in a kennel of rabid dogs. I will do anything full-time, short of prostitution.

The whole idea started this winter while freezing my ass off alone here in Portland. My girlfriend was in a tropical paradise for two months and I decided that this summer, I needed a change. Badly.

We came up with the basics of the idea — I'd sublet my place, apply for a nice, paid, media-related internship, we'd get a room for June through August after her semester was up and we'd live happily through the summer.

There were obvious hurdles we knew we'd have to consider. I'm a broke musician and she's a broke filmmaker. I know we're all starving artists at heart, but New York is where I want to be after graduation, and it ain't cheap.

I spend so much time crafting individual cover letters, stretching the stretchable details of my experience and qualifications.

I really try to make them look pretty — I mean, I would hire me.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE WILBUR

But as of now, all I've received is one polite rejection letter from the internship I wanted most.

Some of the apartment search has been entertaining.

One potential roommate said, "I'm so laidback that my blood pressure is dangerously low."

"The tenant must love cats," he went on. "Hmm, actually, as of this afternoon the cat's gone missing, so scratch that."

The apartment search seems more hopeful than the job search, but it is implausible to sign onto any sublet without having a job secured beforehand.

Monster.com is cluttered and confusing. Craigslist is hard to search.

I have to say, however, that my biggest complaint of all would be the following: where do employers get off with their unpaid internships?

I've seen countless full-time, life-demanding internships that offer nothing. Sometimes not even credit, sometimes "unlimited espresso!" Very cute.

I don't know about their prospective interns, but I don't have five grand kicking around to sus-

tain me through a summer in that city.

I pray that when the fall semester starts up, I'm sitting in the same chair writing a happy follow-up "How I Spent My Summer" article for the Free Press.

But until then, hear this (yes, this is a cry for help): if you are reading this and have any ideas or connections that could lead this poor writer in any sort of positive direction, please, please, let me know.

Sixth Annual Maine Deaf Film Festival

Jenna Howard

Arts Editor

As a deaf child, Wayne Betts Jr. watched E.T. for the first time, and knew instantly that he would be a filmmaker.

After years of education, including time at Rochester Institution of Technology's School of Film and Animation, he has reached his lifelong goal. He's even founded a multimedia production company.

Betts will be the honored guest speaker at this year's Maine Deaf Film Festival, held for the sixth year at USM next week.

The USM Linguistics Department and the American Sign Language Club of Maine will host the annual Deaf Film Festival this Saturday, April 19. The festival will feature eight hours of film, videos and discussions by

Betts, educators and members of the deaf community.

The festival will include films from all over the world, ranging in style from suspense to documentary, animation, drama, comedy and romance.

The films have been chosen by a committee that includes many USM ASL students and faculty.

This year, "Nice N Ezy," a 1 minute film, presents a comical warning about the consequences of taking drugs at discos.

"Loveless, Lonely and a Loser," a nine-minute English film shows us poor, clumsy Adam. No matter what he does to try and impress the woman of his dreams, it just won't work.

Supported by his two best friends — whom girls adore — Adam begins his hunt to find his very own lady. Cursed with misfortune and bad luck, will an accidental

love ever fall his way? British Sign Language and English subtitles will be included.

Director Wayne Betts, Jr. presents "The Deaf Family" and "A Permanent Grave," two feature films including ASL and Subtitles.

The first is a movie sitcom that follows a family from job-hunting to pyramid money-making schemes, holier-than-thou pretentious people to obnoxious "grass-roots" folks.

"The Deaf Family" gets the deaf community to poke fun at itself in hysterical situations.

The second film is a drama about a high school teacher who makes a grave mistake that could turn his life upside-down.

Each genre offers opportunities for the deaf artists who made them to present original statements about the deaf experience.

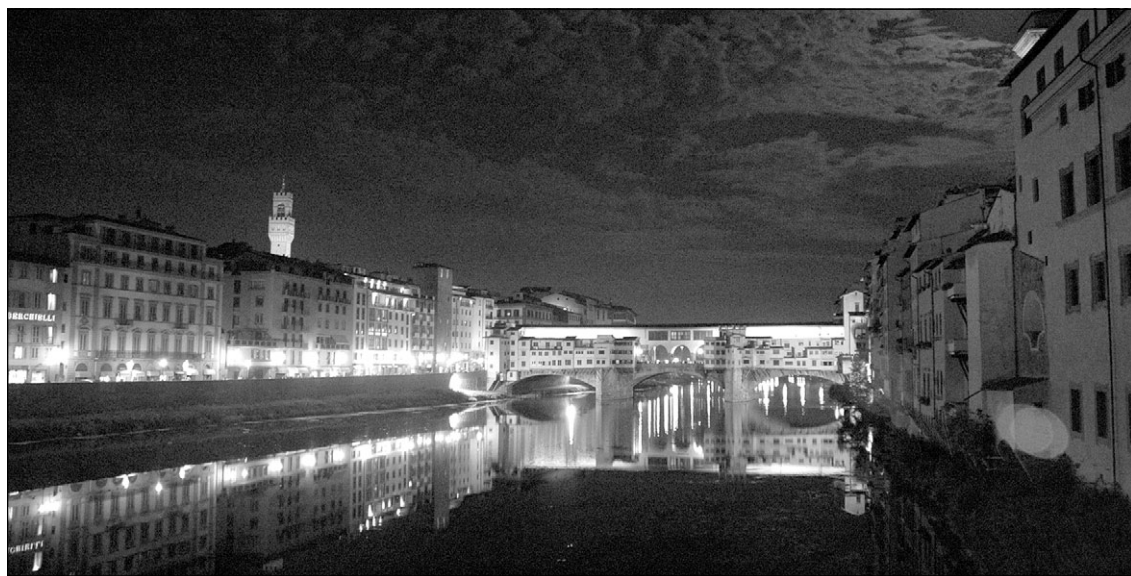
Cultural and technological changes since the early days of Hollywood enable the deaf to tell their own story in their own language and in their own way. As a result, what has come to be called the "New Deaf Cinema" has emerged.

Films will be interpreted for both hearing and deaf audiences as appropriate.

The first film session shows from 1-5 p.m. on April 19. The second session is 6:30-10:30 p.m. Both are in USM's Talbot Hall in Luther Bonney Hall, Portland. An open reception with refreshments will go on from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheatre. Tickets are free for USM students, and can be bought for the entire day or half day by the general public.



Wayne Betts Jr., a 25 year-old filmmaker and creator of Mosdueux, his own production company, will be speaking and showing films at the sixth annual Maine Deaf Film Festival on Saturday.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MARY JONES

Students do roam

Studying abroad at USM

Chantel McCabe

Staff Writer

It is, in fact, a small world.

And with the many options available through international and domestic study abroad programs at USM, traveling that world has never been more convenient.

Each year, hundreds of students go through a somewhat lengthy process to apply to study in other parts of the world. Courtney Albin, who is studying in Rome this semester explains that “you have to apply, get recommendations, submit transcripts, choose classes, apply for scholarships, etc. It’s like applying for college all over again.”

Kimberly Sinclair, the associate director in the Office of International Programs and National Student Exchange, says that only some of the programs that USM works with require interviews before you can be accepted.

Once you are accepted, the exchange program process is simple. All the classes you take abroad are based on the same credit system as USM. Housing options, both on- and off-campus or with host families, are researched to fit your needs and convenience and even food plans can often be arranged depending upon the university you decide to attend.

Before students embark, USM planners help them compile a budget of expenses.

Why go through the process? “Students want cultural growth, career goals, more diverse experiences, to expand their resume, learn about their ancestors and some just want to travel,” Sinclair said.

This year, popular destinations for USM students were Italy, France, and Latin America, however, this varies every year. Changes in the cultures around the world have inspired people to travel to more unusual destinations, such as Hungary and Dubai.

Both summer and semester time spans are available. With some traveling programs offered through USM’s summer program, students don’t have to make the travel plans, they participate in a planned package of travel and study. The popular choice last year was to go to Thailand for a course about Theravada Buddhism.

As far as knowing other languages, this is not a necessity in order to study abroad—not all programs require you to speak the language of the country to which you are traveling. There are programs offered in countries like England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand where English is the official language.

If you choose to go to a non-English-speaking country, there are usually at least several classes offered in English. The office encourages you to have some prior language lessons, and ask that you take a language course while you

are there, but neither are mandatory.

A concern for some student travelers is safety. Sinclair assured that USM takes this seriously into consideration. “The office works with the students to find safe and comfortable programs to suit each individual.” This is one of the first things covered at the student’s pre-departure orientation.

Another concern is often price. Sinclair pointed out “there are all price ranges, depending on the programs and the length of time spent, and where you go. The programs that are within U.S. borders make it very affordable and still provide a very different cultural experience.” There are many programs to which you pay USM tuition rates, and to which your financial aid applies, as well as non-USM programs that offer a variety of price ranges and scholarships.

Some programs offer internships. For example, there are many opportunities for students in the school of business for international training. They allows students to go to the business capitals of the world, like China and India. Service learning has also become increasingly popular—there is an annual trip to Belize through the social work program, as well as trips to the Dominican Republic through health sciences.

Albin, from her current home in Rome, describes her experience.

“From the hundreds of people I’ve met to the natives within the countries—and the multiple countries I have seen, I have learned more than I could ever have imagined in a classroom in Maine. I’m taking some core requirements here. One is art history, another is history, so I’m in Rome and actually get to see the Coliseum and the Roma Forum, etc. It is fascinating. All in all, the process is long and at points tedious, but in the end I can’t imagine being anywhere else. It makes you grow as a person. I’m living in an Italian residential area with four other Americans but the entire apartment is Italians. I have no choice but to try and fit in.”

Albin has been to Venice and Florence, skydived and skied in Switzerland, traveled to Prague and will soon be going to Greece, Sicily, Capri, Tuscany, and Amsterdam. She encourages others to step up and take part in one of these fulfilling experiences.

Where to go . . .

By Jenna Howard

Latvia

Brianna Allen, a senior art major at USM, was abroad last spring. For the price of USM tuition, she studied in Riga, Latvia. She says the insight she gained academically, culturally and personally was “exponential.”

Her first impression: “it’s cold. It’s dark. No one smiles. No one seems friendly -- It could be the least welcoming feeling I have every felt.”

Her final thoughts: “I have never met more genuine people as I have here. Latvians are very

reserved -- and this was hard to understand for me.”

It took her three months before she could say, ‘I have friends here!’ but when she finally could, she says she has never felt more confident in the thought. Latvians, she says, are “altruistic and sincere, but you really have to prove yourself.”

Brianna’s advice to students going abroad? “Always know where you are coming from, where you are and where you are going. Literally.”

Italy

Mary Jones, a USM photography student, spent last year in Italy, at an international design school in the heart of Florence. She says that she knew from high school that she wanted to study abroad.

“My dream finally came true on September 6 of 2006 when I landed in the beautiful city of Florence, Italy,” she says. She spent her entire junior year studying art, traveling from country to country and meeting all kinds of people.

“My taste buds were almost always pleasantly surprised and my camera got the workout of a lifetime,” she says.

“The experience changed me forever; it challenged my boundaries as an individual, giving me the courage to face the world. Those nine months I will never

forget. I encourage anyone who has the same opportunity to take it without hesitation. You will not be disappointed.”



Chile

Rob Ellis, a third year political science student, spent last semester in the southern hemisphere.

While Mainers were heading into winter, his home in Santiago, Chile was quickly heading into summer.

Encouraged by a growing need for Spanish speakers in America, he wanted to travel to a Spanish-speaking country. Chile seemed ideal.

“I was enrolled in an intensive, Monday through Friday Spanish course, and I took a class in Latin American culture,” he says. It was his first Spanish class ever, and it was certainly an immersion experience. Knowing so little at first was quite a barrier, he says, “but then you realize that you can get dropped in the middle of somewhere and survive.”

He learned to navigate the city and the culture with the help of his host family, a 30-something mother and her 6-year-old daughter, and on field trips with his Latin American culture class.

He spent more than an hour each morning commuting to school on metro and bus lines for more than an hour through Santiago.

Ellis found several things surprising about Chile. “People think everything they’ve seen in American film is true about Americans. My host mother

swore that it was strange how Americans drank at funerals. She’d seen in a movie. Also, I mean, it’s not like Portland, Maine. There have been many military coups, windows are barred and there are fences everywhere.”

But Chileans, he says, are welcoming and friendly, despite the fences and bars.

“Also, everything is so lax, I could be 45 minutes late for class, and it would be no big deal,” he says, and things were scheduled late in to the night. “Soccer games, which were huge, did not get underway until 10:45 at night, and school would start for young children at 1:00 in the afternoon.”



For more information, visit USM’s Spring Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday April 15th from 4-7 p.m. at the Brooks Dining Center, USM Gorham.

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My Kid Could Paint That

A&E Indie Films
Directed by Amir Bar-Lev

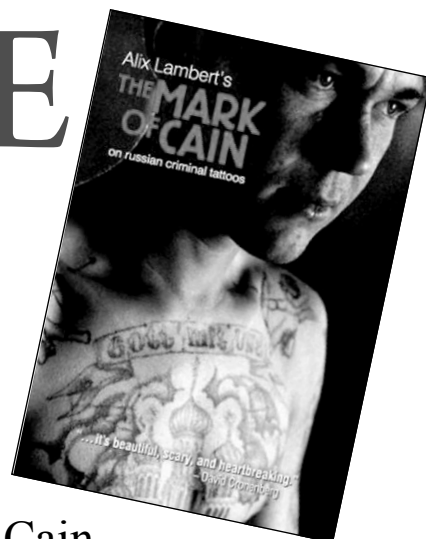
Marla Olmstead is the alleged child prodigy who not only produces works of art beyond her years, but abstract ones at that. Prior to her, that kind of expression was uncharted territory for a child prodigy.

At age four, Marla was a renowned modern painter with work that sold for up to \$25,000 a piece. By age five, her career started to unravel after an expose by *60 Minutes* which cast doubt on her abilities. She could never seem to perform on camera -- not even hidden camera.

It is a stroke of luck that director Amir Bar-Lev was around from the very beginning, originally to document her rise to fame. Instead, he's there in the living room as Charlie Rose informs the nation that Marla's parents probably provide her with more than just love and encouragement.

But her success and the documentary raise more questions than just whether or not these people are con artists. It's not even clear who is to be blamed for the family's deeply uncomfortable position: themselves? The media? The bitter gallery-owner who first propped up Marla to jab at the larger art community?

The only person who evades suspicion is Marla herself. That she hasn't completely blown her parents' cover is a matter of luck and obliviousness, not deceit. With her innocence as a backdrop, *My Kid Could Paint That* is a rich, heartbreaking look at the life-cycle of a human interest story.



The Mark of Cain

Microcinema DVD
Directed by Alix Lambert

In gritty and un-cinematic fashion, *The Mark of Cain* enters deep into Russian prison life to explore the long and complicated history of its tattoos. Over the last century, inmate body art slowly evolved to the point where a person's skin told a lot about their life story.

The new stuff, laments one elderly convict, is "rubbish." He proudly displays fading portraits of Stalin, Lenin and Engels on his own chest, grazed by his bushy white beard.

While the practice is forbidden in prisons, that hardly phases the tattoo artists. Their guns -- constructed out of an electric razor, pen, and guitar string -- etch "ink" made by melting boots down into soot, and mixing the soot with the urine of the recipient.

The film seems equally infatuated with the state of Russian prison life as it is with tattoos -- seeing the prisoners lose this tradition, however unsanitary and gang-related, is just another illustration of how the institution is rapidly deteriorating. Cells designed to hold about two dozen people are overflowing with up to 50; tuberculosis is rampant.

Russia's post-Soviet economic troubles have clearly made for a rough lower-class life, and I doubt that there's any more startling a reflection than these jails. Some may accuse us of coddling criminals over here, but it's difficult to see how this kind of destitution could lead to anything positive.

And while the complex body art makes for a very curious custom, the hole it appears to be leaving is just as unsettling.

The Winner...

As *My Kid Could Paint That* mother Laura Olmstead says in the film, her family unintentionally handed the filmmaker pure "documentary gold." They had something interesting no matter what was done with it. It's even more impressive because you don't come away feeling like you've just sat through a very special episode of *To Catch a Predator*.



Comedian Bob Marley at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham. Although we let him in, he once found himself locked out of his own show.

Bob Marley brings the show back to Maine

From MARLEY page 9

And you went to UMaine Farmington?

Yeah, '92, health major. Community health education (laughs) -- so now I've been a comedian for 17 years.

I did it my junior year in college and just kept going. I started in the spring, and I was doing it pretty much every week in my senior year.

I would drive from Farmington to Boston and do shows down there -- I was always cranking'.

I showed up at Orono one night and went to go into the show room, and the guy at the door was like "hey, the show's not open yet." And I went, "hey, I'm the comedian."

He didn't believe me. So I went into the hallway and just sat down. Thirty minutes after the show was supposed to begin, he finally comes over, "so you're really the comedian, aren't you?"

What were some of your comedy idols back in college?

I loved the old guys -- Buddy Hackett, Don Rickles. Guys like Seinfeld and stuff, they were just coming up through at the time. And now I've met most all those guys, you know.

The thing I like about comedians is that they're accessible and approachable, they're not like rock stars and actors.

An actor could be a waiter the day before, and then he could audition for a part and be huge in six months.

For a comedian, there's no way that's gonna happen. Ninety-nine percent of them are so humble, because you take such a beating on the way up through.

Do you still take a beating?

Yeah, you still have shows that are awful.

I did a show about a year ago for General Electric, and it paid really well, and I was like "oh, this'll be fun." So I get down there in the room, and I start going -- and there's nothing.

I started laughing at one point because there was no way all of this could miss. So I finally get to look out at the crowd -- and they're all Japanese. Not Japanese-Americans, but from Japan, and none of them spoke a lick of English.

I stopped the whole show, I said "who booked me?"

This lady raised her hand. I asked, "did you see a tape of me?" She says "yeah." And I'm like, "was I juggling?"

STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

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Pearl and Ahmed open a dialogue to promote peace

From PEARL page 1

Memorial Lecture on Genocide and Human Rights.

Toward the beginning of the discussion, Ahmed characterized the view of Islam in the West as a "gross misunderstanding."

The two also noted that there are dangerous misperceptions coming from all sides.

They cited a 2006 study by the Pew Research Center that found Westerners view Middle Eastern Muslims as violent and intolerant fanatics.

The same study also found that a majority of the Middle Eastern Muslim world sees Westerners as selfish and immoral as well as violent and fanatical.

These are just a few of the myriad deep-seeded mischaracterizations against which Ahmed and Pearl are fighting.

When the two men first took to the stage five years ago, they faced some hesitation.

They explain that people were fearful that the discussions would erupt into shouting matches, but both men, who are now close friends, have made sure they remain level-headed even when they disagree.

"It shows a disrespect for the audience when you have an agenda," says Ahmed. "It dismisses the audience."

They follow two rules during their dialogue. First, no issue is taboo. Second, to have respect at all times.

Senior Jeremy Smith, a political science major, was impressed by the two men and their demeanor. "I thought both of them were extremely well informed and the whole idea of the discussion was interesting," he said.

Smith has a greater understanding of the issues than a majority of his peers – after high school, he spent time in the West Bank and in the Balatta refugee camp. He wanted to get a first hand experience of what was going on in the Palestinian territories.

While he realizes that most students will never be able to have such an experience, he wishes his peers would take a stronger interest in these issues.

"Watching the news would be a start," he said. "And after that, taking advantage of discussions like this here on campus."

In a similar vein, Pearl says not to underestimate learning more about your own culture.

He says more people need to read and learn about these cultures, and then to go out into the world and engage with others.

"Talk and express yourself," says Pearl. "Go to other countries, like my son Danny did. Spread friendship, smile and make friends."

The end of the event gave the audience the chance to ask questions. One question, regarding foreign policy decisions our next president might make, brought Ahmed to a point about his home country of Pakistan.

Ahmed explained that the majority of aid the U.S. gives Pakistan goes toward weapons that are often used against Pakistani civilians. This country, a key U.S. ally in a torn region, is full of people who hate Americans – it's not a very good investment, Ahmed describes, if you're buying hatred.

In order to turn this around, he suggested that the next presidential administration place stipulations on the billions it gives to Pakistan. If they earmark it for schools and books – the country has a deep-rooted value for education – it would not take long to change attitudes.

Both men agree that progress has been made in recent years for Muslim-Jewish interactions, citing the Saudi Arabian king's invitation to a group of rabbis to participate in an interfaith dialogue in his country. The Saudi king also met with Pope Benedict last year.

According to Pearl, these are signs that there is a shift toward a "change of climate."

Departments present plans to avoid suspension

From PROGRAMS page 1

She was partially involved in the plan created by the physics program, which she says got people involved who had never said anything before.

Eric Favreau, a sophomore senator and geoscience major, said that although students were not involved in creating the plan to revive his department, faculty took time during classes to tell students about their action plan.

"Geoscience found out that they actually make money for the university," he says, "we're the largest geoscience program in New England."

Favreaus beef with all the proposed cuts and program

evaluations is that he sees little happening to administrative offices.

That programs are seeing the first cuts – or the most publicized ones – he thinks is a mistake.

"There are so many duplicate administrative offices, ones that have the same goals and do similar things," he says. "Offices have no relation to students. Faculty (and programs) do."

And even worse, he says, is that even the offices that have a lot to offer students do very little advertising, and are known to a minority of students. "Even financial aid and scholarships – nothing is advertised."

Where's it going from here?

Mark Lapping, teamed with a committee made up of four members of the Faculty Senate, will evaluate the plans provided by each program.

By July 1, they will "have a list of programs I think should be suspended," said Lapping. He does note, however, that this list will be very short.

Suspension, he said, is a yearlong process. It is so long, in part, because the administration must involve the faculty and staff unions.

Suspension would mean that no new students could be admitted to the program, but the university is required to see all existing majors through to their graduation, no matter how long that takes, and cannot cut tenured faculty.

On the faculty senate committee that will work with Lapping are four professors, including Bruce Clary (public policy and management), Jerry LaSala (physics) and Tara Coste (leadership). Lapping could not confirm the name of the fourth member.

Plans

Provost Mark Lapping said that he was pleased with the creativity of the responses that programs were able to make to the threat of suspension. The Free Press is being given the chance to review the 26 programs' proposals – but not until next week.

In the meantime, Lapping was able to share some abbreviated ideas of a handful of programs:

Statistics

- working more with local professionals and professional development
- working with several identified firms to connect learning with real-world applications
- extending across the UMaine system to offering USM math to the four Maine schools without math degrees

Environmental Safety & Health

- came up with private funding

Arts & Humanities (LAC)

- offering degree as a completion-degree at York County Community College

STAND seeks to educate on Darfur genocide

From STAND page 1

While the U.N. doesn't call the Darfur conflict a genocide, saying in 2005 that "genocidal intent appears to be missing," the Coalition for International Justice says that more than 400,000 have been killed and 2.5 million displaced.

Last week, STAND screened *The Devil Came on Horseback* on the Gorham campus. The film is about a photojournalist who spent more than a year in the Darfur region.

This Tuesday, April 15, the Portland campus will welcome two Darfur refugees as guest speakers following a short STAND presentation on the issues.

The event, "Darfur: The Facts," will be a chance for students and community members to hear from the refugees, who live in Portland and have experienced the genocide first hand.

"It's kind of amazing how much people still don't know about Darfur," says Petropoulos. The three students hope that after hearing the stories of the two refugees, people won't be able to ignore the problem anymore.

STAND will also be acting as USM representatives to a human rights rally on April 19 in Monument Square.

While the group has been concentrating on educating others in their on-campus events, the rally is where the real action begins.

Although the USM chapter is concentrating only on Darfur, the national movement is also pushing for action in Burma, Congo and other conflicts around the world.

In the Southeast Asian nation of Burma (officially called Myanmar), a Buddhist-majority nation, the regime in power is using its military to control and disrupt the lives of civilians. The Burmese Monks have been push-

ing for help and independence from the regime for years.

In the central African nation Congo, local armed militia groups are fighting attacks from the Congolese government. The conflict resembles what happened in Rwanda in the 1990's between the Hutu and Tutsi peoples, is deeply rooted in the history of the country and has so far claimed roughly 4.5 million lives according to the International Rescue Committee.

While it's going to take more than three USMers to enact change, STAND hopes their upcoming events will be a start.

Spreading the word about their group to other departments and students on campus, they're trying to spread their message across and get their peers involved.

"We hope that people are responsive to it," says Petropoulos, "and that they realize they really should know more -- and do more."

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Newsday Crossword

SECRET STUFF by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Study hard

5 Winter vehicle

9 ___ Pan
(Captain Hook
adversary)

14 Optimistic

15 Vehicle for hire

16 Banish

17 Friends, in
France

18 Take a crack ___
(try)

19 Nervous

20 Bench or chair

21 Secret, as some
information

23 Sincere

25 Whistle sound

26 Poison-ivy
symptom

28 Eventually
turned into

33 Quick

36 Nonspeaking
street performer

39 Fib teller

40 Best-selling
cookie

41 Makes yawn

42 "___ pinch of
salt"

43 Cafe's listing

44 Makes a
request

45 Double-curve
letters

46 Free tickets

48 Matinee times:
Abbr.

50 Donate

53 Winter roof
hanging

57 Secret, as an
investigation

62 Show off one's
biceps

63 Shade of brown

64 Pavement
materials

65 Tiny amount

66 Desirable
quality

67 Do newspaper
work

68 Wicked

69 Can't stand

70 Gets the
point of

71 Soup-can flaw

DOWN

1 Attend without
an invitation

2 Juliet's love

3 Thai or Tibetan

4 Of a secret
nature

5 Begins

6 Past the
deadline

7 Live and
breathe

8 "Me too!"

9 Small clothing
size

10 Business
bigwig, for short

11 Windshield
coloring

12 Otherwise

13 Swamp stalk

22 After-bath
garments

24 Unhappy

27 Medical
insurance cos.

29 Secret,
as files

30 Helps out

31 Manufactured

32 Periods of
history

33 Frolic

34 Neck of the
woods

35 Writing
implements

37 Annoy

38 Butte relative

41 Fundamental

45 List-shortening
abbr.

47 Marsh birds

49 Never-
happened-
before events

51 Casts a ballot

52 Escape from

54 Garlic portion

55 Allow
admittance to

56 Place on a
pedestal

57 Nevada
neighbor

58 Astronauts' org.

59 Do some
housework

60 Sporting
sword

61 A Great Lake

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UPCOMING GAMES

Opponents names written in capital letters means the game will be played at home

Monday, April 14

Men's Lacrosse @ New England College 4 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse vs. BATES 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15

Softball vs. UMASS BOSTON (double-header) 3:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis @ Bridgewater State 3:30 p.m.

Baseball vs. BOWDOIN 4 p.m.

Women's Outdoor Track @ Bowdoin Invitational 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Men's Outdoor Track @ Holy Cross Decathlon 12 p.m.

Softball vs. ST. JOSEPH'S (double header) 3:30 p.m.

Baseball @ Colby 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Men's Outdoor Track @ Holy Cross Decathlon 12 p.m.

Baseball vs. ST. JOSEPH'S 3:30 p.m.

Softball @ Bowdoin (double header) 3:30 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse vs. PLYMOUTH STATE 4 p.m.

Men's Tennis @ Colby 5 p.m.

Friday, April 18

Women's Outdoor Track @ Bowdoin TBA

Saturday, April 19

Women's Outdoor Track @ Bowdoin 11:30 a.m.

Baseball @ Plymouth State (double header) 12 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse @ Castleton State 1 p.m.

Softball vs. EASTERN CONNECTICUT (double header) 1 p.m.

Men's Outdoor Track @ State Championships (Colby) 1 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse vs. MITCHELL 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. MITCHELL 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

Baseball vs. WHEATON 1 p.m.

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU


Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest). **Rating: BRONZE**

4	2	3		6			5	
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	5		2		4		3	
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		8		2		5		
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Outing club makes big impact on campus

From OUTING page 20

“We had a blast. Some of my greatest friends are people here in the outing club,” he says.

The goal now is to see that more of them come from Gorham, where they’ve recently expanded their presence. Outings are always organized to pick students up from both campuses.

“A lot of these trips are hour and a half car rides, and that’s a good way to meet somebody you don’t know,” says Berry, whose job it is to secure equipment. “The bond only gets stronger as you’re hiking.”

But if you can’t make it for any of the team building, members still want to see that you have the means to get outdoors.

They’re working with the recreation department to keep a well stocked “gear closet” to provide things like backpacks, crampons, and ice axes -- anything that might not make it into the average dorm room -- for anybody who needs them.

Another valuable resource is a pair of memberships to the Maine Rock Gym. For \$20 paid to the club, any student is welcome to use the passes throughout the school year, as long as someone else hasn’t already claimed them for that day.

It’s not a bad deal, considering one trip on your own, including rentals, costs the same amount.

“A lot of these trips are hour and a half car rides, and that’s a good way to meet somebody you don’t know. The bond only gets stronger as you’re hiking.”
-Clymer Berry



Eric Favreau, the outing club’s current president, on a winter hike in the Bigelow mountains last semester. Favreau has big plans for the club, including getting more involved in Gorham and introducing the outdoors to freshman orientation.

STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH TRENT

Adding adventure to orientation

David O’Donnell
Sports Editor

When you think of “new student orientation,” you’re likely to imagine a packed gymnasium full of name-tagged freshmen.

Maybe they’ll separate out into groups for a power point presentation or two.

Trust games, anyone? In an effort to reach out to a new class of USM students, the Southern Maine Outing Club is trying to supplement the school’s official offerings with a new program all their own: an Outing Club Adventure Trip, or OCAT.

“We’ve been hearing a lot from people about how orientation is...lacking,” says Favreau. “We want to get people excited from the very beginning.”

The first OCAT trip, offered next year to students moving into the “outdoor experience” floor of Dickey-Wood Hall, will connect 24 incoming freshmen with six veteran outing clubbers. They’ll divide into groups – one will head to North Conway, another to the Bigelow mountain range, and the third to the Rangely Lake region.

After three days of backpacking, the groups will return to their vans and head for Sebago Lake, where they’ll reconnect, camp out and share their experiences.

After a night on the water, they’ll head back to USM, where classes begin just a couple of days later.

In this first incarnation, the trip will be aimed squarely at the already-converted students who have signed up for the

outdoors-oriented floor, but will give the club, who is pairing with residential life in the endeavor, the chance to work out some kinks in the hopes of offering trips to more students in later years.

OCAT is an obvious effort to drum up interest in the organization; it’s also aimed at the larger community.

Berry sees it – and the club – as an excellent way to bridge that too-often unspoken gap around USM between those straight out of high school and older commuter students.

He also thinks it’s a good grassroots effort toward improving retention, an area that has been a struggle for USM in recent years.

“If you make friends quickly in your freshmen year,” he says, “you’re a lot more likely to want to stay.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 18-20: Rock climbing, Acadia

APRIL 25-26: Biking/camping trip

MAY 12-13: Whitewater rafting

Contact usm.outing.club@gmail.com for more details.

Puzzle answers from page 17

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Huskies secure crucial win versus UMass Dartmouth

Double-overtime victory brings women to 3-1 in conference

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

UMass Dartmouth always proves to be a season-deciding opponent for the women’s lacrosse team. The Huskies and the Corsairs usually end up as the middle pair in the Little East Conference, and have met each other for the first round of play-offs three of the last four years.

Over those four years, USM has won only two games to UMass Dartmouth, including a regular season win in 2005 and the first first-round play-off win in recent history last year.

The Huskies upped those numbers on Saturday, when they beat their rival at home in double overtime, 10-9.

The game was fraught with penalty troubles, including five penalties and several yellow cards.

Head coach Sue Frost was not pleased with the calls, some of which were on what she called “beautiful checks,” but was proud that her team pulled through and took the win.

“We stepped it up and got over what was going on,” she said.

The game winning goal came from junior Caitlin Albert (Scarborough) with less than 50 seconds left on the clock in the

sudden-death overtime period, which came after the first six-minute overtime in which each team earned one goal.

Albert had two goals in the win, and senior Justene Dorr (Gorham) led the team with three. Other points came from freshmen Mary Vaughn (Brunswick) and Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro), and sophomore Jess Knight (Alfred).

Senior goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) had 13 saves.

With the win, the Huskies improve to 4-6 overall and 3-1 in the conference. They have one four of the last five games. They play next on Monday versus Bates in Gorham.

HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Baseball

Huskies earn key split with Eastern Connecticut

4/11 – Sophomore Mark Schmidt (Gorham) pitched 5.2 innings in relief of an injured Collin Henry (Penobscot) to help lead USM to a 4-2 victory over conference rival Eastern Connecticut. Schmidt allowed only two hits and one run and improved his record to 4-0. The Warriors came back to win the night-cap of the double-header 9-6. Junior short-stop Chris Bureson (Portland) powered the Southern Maine attack in the first game with a double and two singles, while junior Ryan Pike made things interesting in the second game with a grand-slam in the eighth inning. The Huskies are currently 15-7 overall and 4-2 in conference play.

Men’s Indoor Track

Haggerty and Hutchinson get LEC Awards

4/11 – Senior Adam Haggerty (Hermon) and coach Scott Hutchinson were both honored for their performances in this winter’s season by the Little East Conference. Haggerty, one of the top pole-vaulters in New England, took home field athlete of the year honors while third-year coach Hutchinson was named coach of the year. Haggerty was twice named field athlete of the week by the LEC and defended his pole-vault title for the fourth consecutive year. Hutchinson garnered his second coach of the year honor after receiving the same distinction for his work with the men’s cross country squad. The two helped lead the Huskies to their first ever Maine state championship.

Women’s Lacrosse

Huskies plunder Anchorwomen

4/10 – The women’s lacrosse team opened with an 11-7 halftime lead and stymied a late-game rally by the Rhode Island College Anchorwomen to secure a win in conference play. Senior Justine Dorr (Gorham) led the pack with three goals and two assists while freshman midfielder Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro) contributed three goals and assist of her own. Freshman attack Mary Vaughn (Brunswick) also had a hat-trick including two key goals that helped Southern Maine build their four-goal half-time advantage.

HUSKY HERO

Interview by John Forestell

Kristina Grondin

Year: Senior
Major: Health Sciences
Sport: Softball

FP: How long have you been playing softball?
Kristina: Since I was 9 years old.

FP: Did you fall in love with it right from the start, or did someone push you towards it along the way?
Kristina: When I first started out playing, my parents said that I didn't like it, but about a year went by (without playing) and I got back into it and started playing on a little league team and as I got older I played ASA ball (and) it became my favorite sport.

FP: What other sports did you play growing up?
Kristina: I danced, played tennis, basketball, gymnastics and cheerleading.

FP: So what made you want to stick with softball into your later years?
Kristina: I just got more involved with the sport, I played on a lot of summer teams. I had to choose between softball and the other sports and I just grew to like softball more than the others. I stuck to it pretty much all through school; I put a lot of hard work and dedication into one sport in the off-season so I could be the best I could be when the season came back around.

FP: What is the fastest you've ever hurled a softball?
Kristina: I believe right now I throw high 50's, low 60's.



FP: Do you have any rituals you go through before a start?
Kristina: I listen to hip hop and reggae music, it gets me pumped up. Also when my parents are around my mother "gives me the power" and I play awesome!

FP: "Gives you the power?"
Kristina: She holds my hand and she says "I'm giving you the power" and it works.

FP: Do you play any other positions besides pitcher?
Kristina: Yes I played every position in my career growing up so I know them all, (but) for USM right now I broke my finger in Florida so i just DH when I'm not pitching.

FP: Is there anything you want USM to know about the "real" Kristina Grondin?
Kristina: I'm very dedicated to softball and a fun person to be around. I come off as being shy but it's the shy ones you have to watch out for!

MIKE ON SPORTS

Homeless Huskies

Mike Tardiff
Columnist

I know a few Huskies who are looking for a good home. This isn't a classified ad: they play baseball, softball and lacrosse. Their fields, wet and brown, are so far unplayable. After the long snowy winter and with fields that take forever to dry, our athletes have been forced to travel all over -- to play their home games. The softball team has used St. Joe's and the University of New England as surrogate homes, baseball heads to fields in South Portland, and the lacrosse teams have hosted their opponents on the turf fields at Deering High School and Portland's Fitzpatrick Stadium.

And it's no small wonder how these games have been played in Maine at all. A lot of kudos have to go out to the athletic programs for being as resourceful and resilient as they are.

After all, it's not easy playing spring sports in southern Maine. Even when the snow stops flying and the fields are clear, the winds howl and the temperatures are, well, less than tropical.

The other day I watched the baseball team absolutely battle it out in a home/South Portland game against Husson College.

The cold air made me and the ink in my pen pretty lethargic. I wanted to climb into the backseat of my car and start a small fire.

But the players and coaches handled the game with a great deal of resolve. Even though they were playing on a field not their own, a field that didn't have a scoreboard or an abundance of seating, the Huskies battled for the entire three and a half hours (which, to me, seemed like nine and a half).

When Husson tied the game in the ninth inning, Coach Flaherty rallied his troops and took home a hard fought win. In more ways

than one, it was, as Flaherty told the Portland Press Herald, a game of survival. These stories aren't uncommon.

I've drove by Fitzpatrick Stadium one blustery night and saw the women's lacrosse team pummeling St. Joseph's. Last week the softball team, borrowing fields in Standish, came away with a double-header sweep of Salem State.

Not only is it impressive that our players can compete under some of the most adverse conditions, but there is something to be said of the community's willingness to rally behind our teams and give them a place to play.

I hear often enough that USM sports sometimes get snubbed by the city of Portland or the local media, and while that might hold a few teaspoons of water, the fact of the matter is that it's pretty impressive that our teams can find local places to play with relatively few problems.

Arguably the most trying part of playing spring sports is that, for teams like the baseball and softball team, a large chunk of games are played in short succession in unfamiliar places.

Through our athletic administrators' willingness to collaborate with and/or compensate different entities in order to get games played, this element is mitigated, at least a little.

By not continuously postponing games or canceling them outright, coaches and people like athletics director Al Bean are ensuring that our players are given the best opportunity to succeed. This should not go without notice.

With any luck the school will win the Powerball and our fields will can be modernized with a heavy dose of artificial turf.

But until then, the MacGyver-like capabilities of our coaches, players and administrators will do just fine.

Husky Scoreboard

Baseball

4/6 – Rhode Island College 3, USM 1
4/6 – USM 7, Rhode Island College 1
4/9 – USM 11, Husson 10
4/10 – USM 13, Salem State 2
4/11 – USM 4, Eastern Connecticut 2
4/11 – Eastern Connecticut 9, USM 6

Softball

4/10 – USM 8, Salem State 7
4/10 – USM 12, Salem State 2

Men's Tennis

4/6 – UMass Boston 5, USM 2
4/8 – USM 6, Rhode Island College 3
4/10 – USM 9, Thomas 0

Men's Lacrosse

4/6 – Western Connecticut 14, USM 4
4/8 – Colby 10, USM 5
4/10 – UMass Boston 9, USM 6

Women's Lacrosse

4/7 – Curry 16, USM 10
4/10 – USM 16, Rhode Island College 13



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Huskies have winning week

Men take one of two in important contest vs. Eastern Connecticut

Matt Dodge
News Editor

The Huskies improved to an impressive 15-7 after a busy week, earning three wins in their last four games. A robust offense delivered 41 runs over the four-game week, with the defense keeping opponents in check by allowing only 24 runs.

On Wednesday against Husson College, an offensive battle went the Huskies' way as the hot bat of sophomore Chris Burleson (Portland) lit up on Husson's pitching, earning him four runs, including two doubles and a triple.

A late offensive spurt by the Husson in the top of the ninth was soon quelled by the Huskies in the bottom of the inning as junior Ryan Gaffney (Salem, NH) reached second, setting up junior Ryan Pike (Saco) who singled off the left field wall to bring Gaffney home and close out the game.

Thursday brought a 13-2 trouncing of Salem State as the visiting Huskies exploded in the second inning, scoring eight runs off eight hits and a walk.

USM's 15 hits included a sixth inning homer by senior Eddie Skeffington (Everett, Mass.) and four runs in the seventh to seal the victory.

The Huskies split a Friday doubleheader in an important conference pairing against Eastern Connecticut, winning the first game 4-2.

Sophomore left-hander Mark Schmidt (Gorham) entered the game in relief for injured sophomore starter Collin Henry (Penobscot) during the forth inning. Schmidt sparkled during a 5.2 inning relief stint, in which he allowed only two hits and one run.

In the nightcap, the Huskies couldn't rally back after falling behind to Eastern Connecticut 5-0 in the first three innings.

Ryan Pike offered a glimmer of hope in the eighth with a grand slam during the five run inning, but Eastern Connecticut reliever Chris Wojick dashed any comeback hopes with a solid closing performance.

The Huskies play at home this week on Tuesday versus Bowdoin and Thursday in a doubleheader versus St. Joe's.



Freshman Pitcher Nick Hahn (Guilford, CT) throws to a Husson College batter. The team had a handful of wins last week, improving to 15-7 overall.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

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This week ...
Mike on sports page 18
Lax girls win again page 17
This week in baseball page 19

SPORTS

The Free Press | April 14, 2008 20

If you smell-la-la-la-la what Luke Robinson is cookin’

Michael Tardiff

Staff Writer

When Luke Robinson saw The Rock step into a WWE ring in eighth grade, he was sold.

Now 23, the senior business major is living out his childhood dream.

He’s a professional wrestler.

Last week, he sat in the Luther Bonney computer lab studying videos, explaining to me the nuances of great wrestling.

“This was when less was more,” he says, pointing to a YouTube video of the Ultimate Warrior battling the venerable Hulk Hogan in Wrestlemania. “That is just great showmanship.”

But what could possibly draw a former three-sport all-state athlete to a sport as maligned as professional wrestling?

“Wrestling is the greatest entertainment,” he says. “Nothing else can sell out arenas 52 weeks a year. Nothing else can reach that broad of an audience.”

If you’re still skeptical about wrestling, Robinson can tell you all of the industry’s strong suits: what cities are doing to get wrestling to come to their venues, the diversity of the industry’s revenue streams, and the wide net that his profession casts.

But how does a guy from Auburn get introduced to the world of pile-drivers and body-slams?

After wrestling against his buddies in his parents’ basement, which he adorned with makeshift props and lighting, Robinson made the best of his one shot at cracking into the business he met with Lewiston’s wrestling hall-of-famer, Tony Atlas.

At first skeptical of Robinson’s dedication, because so many

people try wrestling and give it up in no time, Atlas has since taken Robinson under his wing, opening many new doors for him.

“I’ve traveled all over the country wrestling. I’ve been to Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Las Vegas,” he explains. “I’ve wrestled against the Honky Tonk Man (former WWE Intercontinental Champion).”

Pursuing his dream doesn’t afford him much free time. Working with Atlas, he’s developed a regimen that includes weight lifting, calisthenics, and in-the-ring-training, plus an assortment of unexpected habits like shaving his body hair and spending ample time in the tanning bed. But for the six-foot-one, 210 pounds man, it’s just part of the business.

And it’s the part he loves the most.

“That’s the best part about wrestling. It’s all about marketing, branding and self-promotion,” he says, pointing to a digital image of his t-shirt logo. It’s modeled after a Jack Daniels label and has his moniker, The Future Legend, written in a classic script.

But it’s not all glitz and glamour. Wrestling is hard work and Robinson has the wounds to show for it.

He tells stories of getting the wrong end of a forearm shiver and having his ear sliced open by an opponent’s boot, an injury that landed him 14 stitches and a shower of his own blood.

“People don’t realize that the ring is a steel frame with two-by-fours and just a little bit of padding with canvas on it, and the ropes are made of steel wire covered with plastic and taped,” he explains.

I ask about the shiner perched under his right eye, which he hasn’t yet mentioned.

“I’m never at 100 percent. There is always something wrong with me, whether it’s a black-eye or a bruise. But I’ve gotten used to it.”

“People always ask me what’s going on and I tell them not much, even though I’m always traveling and training. But that’s what the lifestyle of a wrestler is,” he says. “It’s great.”

Despite the traveling he’s been able to do, most of the time you can find him wrestling in smaller venues like at the VFW Hall in Old Town or at the Farmington Fair.

Whether the crowd is 100 or 1,000, Robinson says he loves the entire experience of wrestling.

This spring will mark a new chapter for Robinson. Getting his business degree this May, he will meet his parents’ only prerequisite to chasing his dream of fame in the squared-circle.

He won’t be the only wrestler with a degree, he points out. “What people don’t realize is that a lot of big name wrestlers like the Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin have college degrees and are very involved in the whole creative process.”

As soon as he walks across that stage, Robinson plans to head to Florida and wrestle at the WWE’s development facility, moving him one step closer to his ultimate goals.

“I want to get to the top and make millions so that I can come back to my house on the [Androscoggin] river,” he says.

When or whether Robinson will make an appearance on RAW remains to be seen, but if enthusiasm and passion are criteria, it appears that he’s well on his way to laying the smack down somewhere.

“Wrestling is the greatest entertainment. Nothing else can sell out arenas 52 weeks a year.”

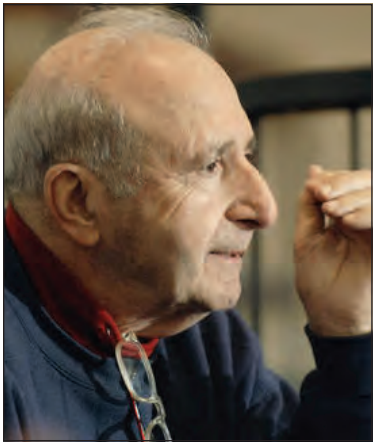
-Luke Robinson



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LUKE ROBINSON

Student Luke Robinson poses for the camera on the ropes of a wrestling ring. This 23-year-old is getting a degree at USM because its the only way his parents will let him follow his dream to become a professional wrestler.

Remembering Doc Costello



Matt Dodge

News Editor

An important and historic member of the USM community, Richard “Doc” Costello, passed away last Monday at the age of 79 in his Gorham home after battling cancer.

Born in 1928 in Burlington, NJ, he came in 1953 to what was then Gorham State Teachers College as a physical education teacher and

assistant coach.

In his 37 years at USM, Costello dutifully wore almost every hat in the athletic department, coaching almost every sport at the school before becoming athletic director in 1955, a job he held until 1990.

Hardly content to give up the hardwood courts for a desk, Costello continued to coach both the men and women’s basketball teams even after becoming athletic director.

He is the only coach in NCAA history to win 200 games with both men’s and women’s teams.

Credited with establishing the first collegiate soccer program in the state, Costello was also a founding member of the Little East Conference.

In recent years, he’s been known to hang around the building that bears his name, the Costello Sports Complex in Gorham, shooting hoops and chatting with Huskies 60 years his junior.

His funeral was held this past Saturday in Gorham at St. Anne’s Catholic Church.

Branching out

The USM Outing Club gets bigger, better

David O’Donnell

Sports Editor

This semester, Eric Favreau took over as president of the USM Outing Club, one of the university’s most active student organizations.

The group, which has an email list-serv of nearly 500 students, has grown by “leaps and bounds,” he says, but he admits that implementing his larger vision for it is sometimes a struggle.

It’s not a major overhaul that Favreau has in mind.

“I think there has always been a spirit of the outing club that’s not going to change,” he says.

“I’ve just thought we need to start reaching out to new people, and empower them to start climbing mountains on their own.”

The club organizes outdoor activities, including hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing, and

skydiving, and though it has a rotating cast of students who slip in and out for individual trips, it has a core of between eight and ten members.

He and others would love to see the club become more than just a tight-knit group, and expand into a full-fledged campus resource.

According to Clymer Berry, an officer in the organization, reaching out to other groups and securing funding are two of Favreau’s strengths.

“Because of how involved Eric is in student government and other clubs, it has really allowed us to have some new connections,” Berry points out.

Favreau and company have tried to make the most of this semester, in typical outing club fashion.

Early on in the semester, there were a series of winter hikes around the area. Over February break, they took a leisurely trip

to a cabin in Greenville for some skiing, hiking and snowshoeing.

One winter climbing trip took them to North Conway, where they initially set out to reach three separate Mountain peaks.

The first day, they met with strong winds (approximately 60 miles per hour) on their way up Mt. Washington, forcing them back down.

An attempted re-do the next day was met with a mix of hard, wet snow, to the point that they could hardly see one another.

On their third and final try the next morning, they got to the very same point on Mt. Washington as they had reached the first day. The wind, however, had increased by an additional 20-30 mph.

And yet to hear Favreau tell it, it sounds like one of the highlights of his school year.

See OUTING page 17